

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 21, 2003

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 3, 2003

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2003–04 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 1365

Introduced by Assembly Member Steinberg

February 21, 2003

An act to add Section 10601.3 to the Welfare and Institutions Code, relating to social services.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 1365, as amended, Steinberg. Child welfare services.

Under existing law, the State Department of Social Services oversees the administration of county public social services, including child welfare services.

The Child Welfare System Improvement and Accountability Act of 2001 requires the department to establish the California Child and Family Service Review System, in order to review, commencing January 1, 2004, all county child welfare systems.

Existing law requires the California Health and Human Services Agency to convene a workgroup comprised of representatives of specified entities and organizations to establish a work plan by which the child and family service reviews shall be conducted. As part of the work plan established by the workgroup, county child welfare departments are required to perform a self-assessment of child welfare services in each county.

This bill would require that, in accordance with the work plan, each county child welfare department establish a team of specified individuals to conduct these self-assessments.

By expanding the duties of county welfare departments, this bill would impose a state-mandated local program.

The California Constitution requires the state to reimburse local agencies and school districts for certain costs mandated by the state. Statutory provisions establish procedures for making that reimbursement, including the creation of a State Mandates Claims Fund to pay the costs of mandates that do not exceed \$1,000,000 statewide and other procedures for claims whose statewide costs exceed \$1,000,000.

This bill would provide that, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that the bill contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement for those costs shall be made pursuant to these statutory provisions.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes. State-mandated local program: yes.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

- 1 SECTION 1. Section 10601.3 is added to the Welfare and
- 2 Institutions Code, to read:
- 3 10601.3. (a) In accordance with the work plan developed
- 4 pursuant to Section 10601.2 that requires county child welfare
- 5 departments to perform self-assessments of child welfare services,
- 6 the child welfare agency in each county shall appoint a team of
- 7 individuals, as described in subdivision (b), to perform a
- 8 self-assessment of child welfare services. The membership of the
- 9 team may differ according to a specific county's profile or specific
- 10 strengths, weaknesses, or other special programs or circumstances
- 11 in the county.
- 12 (b) The self-assessment team in each county shall include, but
- 13 not be limited to, the following persons:
- 14 (1) County child welfare services administrators, managers,
- 15 and social workers.
- 16 (2) County probation administrators, supervisors, and officers.
- 17 (3) Local representatives of the California Youth Connection.
- 18 (4) Local biological parents.
- 19 (5) Local foster parents.



(6) County mental health *department* administrators, supervisors, and mental health workers.

(7) Local education administrators and teachers.

~~(8) Representatives of local California tribes.~~

(8) *County health department administrators, supervisors, and health workers.*

(c) In addition to the requirements set forth in subdivision (a), the self-assessment team in each county shall either consult with, or contain representatives of, the following groups:

(1) Representatives of local California tribes, if applicable.

(2) Court-appointed special advocates.

(3) Labor.

(4) Law enforcement.

(5) Local advocates for children and parents.

(6) Judicial officers of the local dependency court.

(7) Local alcohol and drug department.

(8) Regional training academy.

(d) The self-assessment team in each county may consult with any other individual, agency, or organization the county determines may have important input to provide to the self-assessment process.

SEC. 2. Notwithstanding Section 17610 of the Government Code, if the Commission on State Mandates determines that this act contains costs mandated by the state, reimbursement to local agencies and school districts for those costs shall be made pursuant to Part 7 (commencing with Section 17500) of Division 4 of Title 2 of the Government Code. If the statewide cost of the claim for reimbursement does not exceed one million dollars (\$1,000,000), reimbursement shall be made from the State Mandates Claims Fund.